

Tales of Former Gridiron Stars Who Now Hold High Offices in Government

Apropos of the Opening of Another Football Season, Story Is Told of Prominent Figures Who Formerly Were College Heroes

BY JOHN ELPRETH WATKINS.

Football—whose season now is dawning—like war, promises its heroes certain advantages for a public career. The gridiron is a mighty coarse slave and it is only the very biggest chunks of grit that can stay in—grit of the hard kind that scratches deepest on history's lasting monuments. Built of such stuff to begin with, and the kind of body that gives a broad and safe foundation for weighty things to be packed into the convolutions of the upper story, your gridiron hero has the further magnificent advantage of beginning post-collegiate life with tremendous assets of publicity prerequisite to a public career, but ordinarily acquired in later life.

Conspicuous in Congress, the judiciary and the diplomatic service, high in the bureaucracy—Federal, State and municipal—and in the front rank of political forces striving to remold the destinies of the nation are former wearers of the moleskin and pounders of the pigskin.

From Gridiron to Senate.

The most recent of these acquisitions to our public life is the new senator from Rhode Island, Henry Frederick Lippitt, successor of the famed and potent Aldrich. In his freshman year at Brown he was made captain of the varsity football eleven, and during his entire four years at the Rhode Island University, until his graduation in 1878, was its star gridiron hero.

Another of our pigskin heroes, after having, as Secretary of State, served as premier of the Cabinet, is now our ambassador to France, and upon him thus ruminates Walter Camp, director of athletics at Yale and the celebrated authority on all things football.

"I can remember very well the way in which I regarded Robert Bacon, captain of the Harvard team in the fall of '79.

"Handsome as an Adonis."

"Handsome as an Adonis, big, powerful and fast, he seemed the ideal hero of the gridiron."

Thus were the present Senator from Rhode Island and the present ambassador to France, gridiron captains at one and the same time. Lippitt afterward going in for the manufacture of woollens and Bacon joining the powerful firm of J. P. Morgan & Company.

"It would be a satisfaction," further opined Walter Camp, "to see those powerful men of long ago grouped with the more recent heroes upon some huge gridiron—each player at his ripest and best age—and then pick one eleven after another, as would a coach, from the entire squad."

But such a wish is vain, for how might one imagine the respected treasurer of the United States, once the halfback McClung, appearing on the gridiron in moleskins to-day, although he could probably still carry off the part. He did it at the time of the bicentennial at New Haven, in a game against the second varsity eleven, with all his old-time dash and speed. And to-day upon the tennis courts he is a dangerous competitor for the younger men to engage.

"For a long time at New Haven the belief prevailed that Lee McClung's team was the best that Yale ever produced."

And Mr. Camp added that this team of the present Treasurer of the United States stands probably unequalled in individual brilliancy, individual independence and "football initiative."

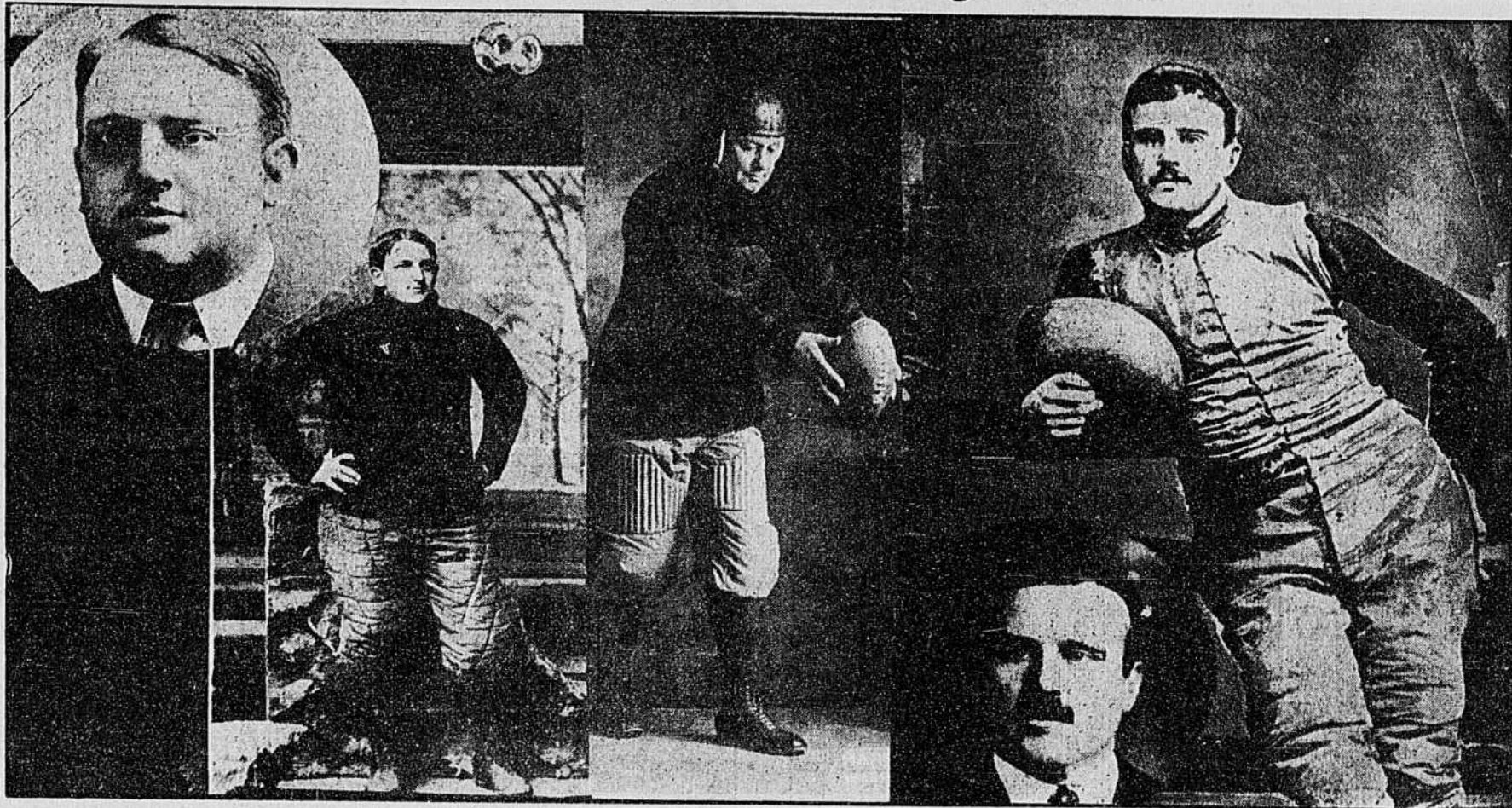
What largely made McClung's victorious team of '31 famous was its favorite "twenty-three" play, with McClung carrying the ball, and in a succession of seven or eight plays his actual average was nineteen and a fraction yards to the run, while his possible average was nearer twenty-four yards, for two of these runs carried the ball over the goal line.

Was Never Scored Upon. And I have it on the authority of Mr. Camp that McClung's team "was never scored upon by any opponent, and ran up 488 points in thirteen games—an average of thirty-six to the game."

While only a freshman at Yale McClung made the team play in the famous Yale-Harvard game of '87, in which on the Harvard side played Lake, afterward Lieutenant—governor of Connecticut.

"An Ideal Centre."

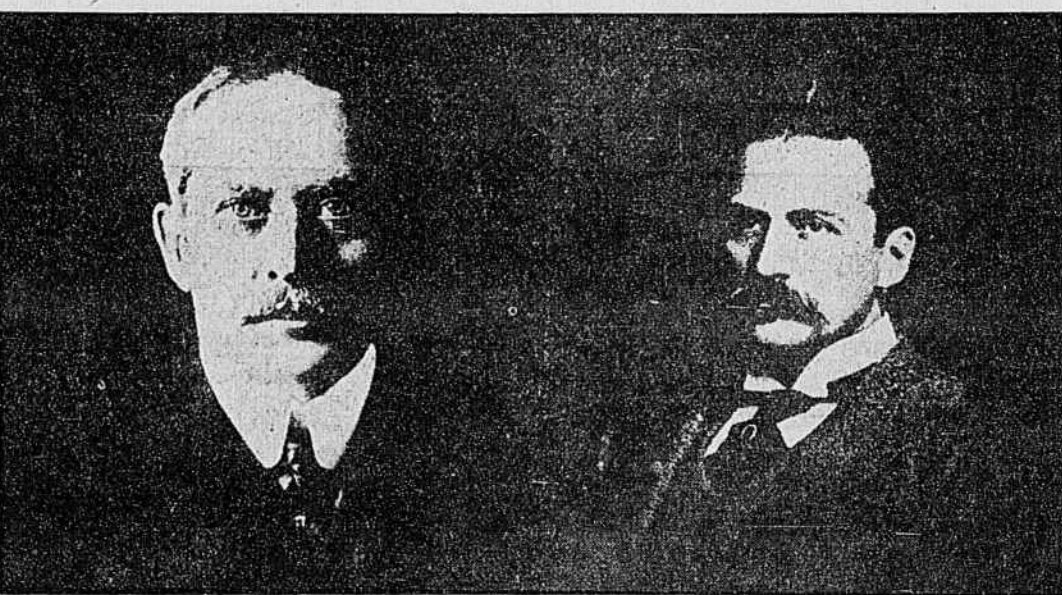
The new Assistant Attorney-General of the United States, William H. Lewis, whose recent appointment was of interest because he is partly of negro descent, played three years as centre rush at Amherst, where he became captain of the varsity eleven, and later played two years in the same position at Harvard, becoming the most noted centre rush that university ever



COMMISSIONER W. H. EDWARDS, as Princeton football captain and co-day.

DR. WILEY, as a gridiron star.

as Yale football captain and as Treasurer of the United States.



UNITED STATES SENATOR LIPPITT (RHODE ISLAND), Once Gridiron Captain of Brown University.

AMBASSADOR ROBERT BACON, Former Harvard Football Captain.

knew. He coached for two years at Harvard after graduation and has been designated by Walter Camp as "an ideal centre."

That former football star who has entered the Federal judiciary is George Woodruff, now United States District Judge in Hawaii. He also served as Assistant Attorney-General of the United States and for a time acted as Secretary of the Interior in 1907. After earning fame as a crew man and star guard at Yale in the class of '89 he went to the University of Pennsylvania and became there a famous coach. He first became known to official life when he was law officer of the Forestry Bureau under Pinchot, during the Roosevelt regime. Indeed, the Forestry Bureau has been governed of late by men tried and tested upon the gridiron, for both the former forester, George Pinchot, and the present forester, Henry Solon

Graves, were in their time pigskin kickers at Yale. Pinchot being a classmate of Woodruff and Graves coming along three years later, in the class of '92. And in the Yale class preceding that of Pinchot and Woodruff was a football player, George R. Carter, who later became a senator of Hawaii, secretary of that territory and later its Governor.

Now Governor Philippines.

And another of our high insular officials well known in the annals of varsity football is the present governor-general of the Philippines, W. Cameron Forbes, grandson of the great Ralph Waldo Emerson. He was coach of the great Harvard team of '98, the first which, after eight years of desperate and futile struggle, was able to defeat Yale, and then at the time of 17 to 0.

Among State officials who wore moleskins there are Tax Commissioner Corbin, of Connecticut, who rowed on the Yale crew and was captain of a football team, and Butterworth, who after shining resplendent as a gridiron star at Yale entered the Connecticut State Senate.

Like McClung, he keeps up his athletic training, being now one of the best polo players in New England. There is also a considerable string of municipal officials who once strided upon the gridiron. Chas. D. Daley, present fire commissioner of Boston, was a famous football captain at Harvard and afterward a West Point man.

Vance McCormick, who has made fame as "reform mayor" of Harrisburg, Pa., was a famous gridiron captain of Yale. Then there is William H. ("Big Bill") Edwards, the present street commissioner of New York, who added to his fame by felling the would-be assassin of Mayor Cuyler. This giant was in 1899 captain of the Princeton football team, on which he played right guard for three years.

Describes His Best Game.

The other day when I asked him what was the most exciting game he ever played, Commissioner Edwards replied:

"The most sensational game I ever played in was the final game of the season at New Haven, November 25, 1899, when with only thirty-six seconds left to play Arthur Poe kicked a goal from the field which changed the score from 10 to 6 to 11 to 10. A few minutes previous to this Al. Sharp had kicked a goal from the field for Yale, making the score 10 to 6. The rest I leave to you."

Dr. Wiley's Story.

In an accompanying photograph you see the noted pure food champion, Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, armed cap-a-pie for a gridiron battle.

When the doctor became professor of chemistry of Purdue University there was a new gymnasium, but no instructor in athletics. The herculean professor proceeded at once to organize the athletics of the institution, as he did also its first corps of cadets, of which he was instructor. He did not consider himself too dignified to march at the head of his boys on parade or

to participate in their athletic contests on the field.

About the second year after the opening of Purdue," said Dr. Wiley, "when my activities in athletics and my riding of a bicycle had been much talked about as being unbecoming in a college professor, I was cited to appear before the board of trustees, and when I reached the meeting room I was confronted by charges preferred against me of conduct unbecoming a professor and a gentleman."

Costume Caused Trouble.

"The counts were, first, that I dressed up in knee breeches and played ball with the boys; second, that, as expressed by Mr. Doubledlower, one of the trustees, I rode a cartwheel while dressed up as a monkey (I had the first bicycle ever seen in that part of the country); third, that I did not go to morning prayers—all of which conduct was deemed highly detrimental and prejudicial to the moral uplift of the institution. I, of course, could make no defense against these charges. I admitted that they were all true, and in the presence of the trustees wrote my resignation as a member of the faculty, handed it in and passed out. But the next day I got a communication from the secretary of the board informing me that they had unanimously refused to accept my resignation.

"Later, when athletics were organized on a large scale," he told me, "the athletic association made me an honorary member and presented me with a beautiful silk sweater on which the letter 'P,' standing for 'Purdue,' was worked. On receipt of this sweater I borrowed a football suit from the George Washington University football team and had my picture 'took.'"

"Do you still keep up your interest in football?" I asked the doctor. "I have missed only one Harvard-Yale game in many years, and that was the only one that, in many years, Harvard has won."

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Highland Springs Social News

Highland Springs, Va., September 16.—The Union Christian League service will be conducted Sunday night in the Methodist Church with one of the members as leader. The Rev. R. W. Savage, pastor of the church, will be present. Home this week after having spent his vacation in the North.

Miss Eliza Clarke and Annie Nealon, of New Hampshire, returned during the past week to their respective homes after a delightful visit of several weeks at "Lynnhurst," the country home of Dr. S. A. Roop.

Miss Lizzie B. Beadles and Mrs. C. V. Beadles have returned from a visit to Hanover county. The first meeting of the Woman's Study Club for the session of 1911-12 was held last week at the home of the founder and former president, Mrs. Marian Savage. The members turned out in full force, and pleasant reminiscences of the summer were given by each one, after which all went science hunting, four rooms having been artistically arranged to represent a science, a prize having been offered for the correct guess. But as no one was successful it will be

carried over for the October meeting. Light refreshments were served by the hostess, George Osko and Miss Macie McGee, both of this place, surprised their friends by getting married during the past week, the Rev. H. P. Balderson, officiating. After the ceremony they went North for a brief tour.

Miller School Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Miller School, Va., September 16.—The Vawter Literary Society met Saturday evening and elected the following officers: President, James W. Lewis; Vice-President, Rev. David H. Braxley; Secretary, Harvey Lee Hunt; Critic, Dr. R. C. Beale, Ph. D.; Sergeant-at-Arms, Allen M. Montz; Chorister, Charles H. Jones. Mrs. Mary S. Wallace left this week for Gladstone.

Miss Ruth Moran recently went to Luray to visit friends. The school opened with the following new teachers and post-graduate teachers: Misses Lucy G. Puryear and Fleda Steele, post-graduates, W. Witt Jennings, Ernest F. Doom and Benjamin H. Wells.

Frederick's Hall Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Frederick's Hall, Va., September 16.—Miss Clara Pettit of Palmyra, was the recent guest of Mrs. W. A. C. Pettit.

C. D. Hardenbergh, of Richmond,

spent several days with his father, J. V. Hardenbergh, last week. Mrs. E. L. Phillips has returned from a pleasant visit to relatives in Palmyra. Mrs. Hugh Powell, of Richmond, and Miss Bettie Garnett, of Buckner, were the recent guests of Mrs. E. A. Terrell. J. S. Moore left last week for Philadelphia.

Asheville Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Asheville, N. C., September 16.—At her home at Busbee, Mrs. Cahries M. Platt entertained a number of her Asheville friends most delightfully Thursday evening at a Dutch supper. The supper was served on the veranda of her beautiful home, which was beautifully decorated and brightly illuminated for the occasion. The guests drove to Busbee from Asheville Thursday afternoon, and returned through the country after the supper.

After a ten days' delightful camping trip at Bat Cave and Esmeralda, which was spent in mountain climbing and other delightful pursuits for a camping party, quite a number of Asheville's young folks returned to the city Monday afternoon. Among those who were members of the party were Miss Lillian Fletcher, Miss Myrtle Gudger, Miss Edith Lawrence,

Miss Maud Cudger, Van Buren Boettig, Cassius Gudger, Lucius Weaver, Walter Wray and Eugene Cooke. Misses Caroline and Rebecca Lowe were the hostesses at a delightful five hundred party Saturday afternoon at their home on Charlotte Street. A number of the members of Asheville's younger set were the guests of Misses Lowe, and the affair was a most enjoyable one.

One of the most enjoyable parties of the season was given Friday evening by Miss Eleanor Groves to a number of her friends of the younger set. The guests of Miss Groves were taken to the summit of Sunset Mountain, where a delicious cold dinner was served them at the summer home of Mrs. Frank Seeley, of Atlanta.

In the dining-room of the Battery Park Hotel Friday evening, Mrs. Rufus Woodcock entertained at a dinner in honor of her sister, Miss Agnes Foss, who has arrived in this city to spend the winter. Those who attended the dinner party afterwards took part in the fancy dress ball, which was given at the hotel.

In honor of Mrs. William Boykin, of Baltimore, who is visiting her daughter, Mrs. William M. Renwood, Mrs. John A. Campbell entertained most delightfully at a luncheon Friday afternoon at her home in Cumberland Circle. The home was tastefully decorated and Mrs. Campbell's guests spent a most enjoyable hour and were pleased to meet Mrs. Boykin.

A number of the children of the city enjoyed a pleasant afternoon on Friday as the guests of Miss Ruth Lane Stickleather, the two-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Stickleather, who was "at home" at her home on Church Street.

Heathsville Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Heathsville, Va., September 16.—Misses Helen and Carolyn Bragg, of Charlottesville, and Lucy Arness, of Westmoreland, who have been visiting Miss Marie Walker, have returned to their homes.

Mrs. Sallie Currey and Mr. Foley, of Charlottesville, Va., who have been spending some time with the former's daughter, Mrs. W. H. Boyd, have gone to Washington for a brief stay.

B. Cralle and son, of Colorado Springs, who have been with Mr. Cralle's mother, all summer, left this week, accompanied by Mottram Miller, for their home.

Joe Routten, who has been visiting his parents here, has returned to Mississippi.

Paul and Esther Dorsey, who have been spending some time at the home of Dr. J. A. Rice, have gone to Washington.

Miss Helen Hudnall was recently a guest of Miss Elizabeth Anderson.

Professor J. Harper Brent left on Thursday to resume his duties at Barton Heights High School. He was accompanied by his brother, Will S. Brent, who will attend the V. P. I. this session.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Grimm, of Washington, are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ward, at "Springfield." The recent launch and dancing party given by the young people of this town at Lewisetta, was the most pleasant of the season. Those composing the party were Misses Genevieve and Marguerite Smith, Julia Dameron, Maude Hardwick, Leah Rice, Frank Kathryn and Parcing Nelms, Estelle Betts, Doswell Shirley, Lucy Arness, Helen Hudnall and Marie Walker, Elizabeth Anderson, Louise Blundon, Carolyn and Helen Bragg, Robert Blundon, Archie Jett, Otis Betts, Earle Pusey, Julian Dullin, George Walker, Harper Brant, Henry Walker, Winn Anderson, Mason Brent, Thomas Brent, Everett Marsh, Ashbury Harris, M. M. Rowe, Jack Routten, Joe Routten and Dr. Fred D. Brent.

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